

Ghent, July 17. 1850 (Hotel Royal)

My dear Lizzie

I am quite grieved to have got so behind hand

with my writing; and in pity Dr Gray has offered to take the pen, and write to my dictation. I have had a little attack of inflammation of the eyes for a week or more; so that I have been obliged to give up writing; and as eyes are so precious now-a-days, when one has chances offered them that they are unlikely to have again in their lives, I am very particularly careful.

Now to begin where I left off in letter to Susan, & tell you how I got there - which I must do very cursorily, leaving out all descriptions of England for the present. - Let me

remember. - I think I left off with the close of the first act of the unprotected female viz. her return to ^{my} Berghain.

We went on that evening where boxes and bad people are sent. viz. to Brastay, and thence to the fashionable watering-place of Seamington. Then we went, you know, to deliver Dr.

Darlington's parcel & see the ultimate descendants of old Peter Colburnson. Dr. G. did all that next morning; found the old lady laid up with serious injury from a fall - & the daughter - a spinster of 40, - polite & thankful, regretting that attendance at her aged mother's bedside prevented her paying any attention to me. - The rest of Tuesday was a great day with me. - O. Lizzie, if you could have seen our equipage; - a sort of barouche with only one seat, a sort of cross between a cab and a barouche (named in the bill a phaton)

drawn by one horse, ridden by a postillion, ^{a young man} in red jacket, small clothes, white top boots & a little jockey cap. Honeybun hobbing up and down at every step. The first drove thro' green bedrooms

I am so low in the morning that I can't write - I enjoy the travelling very much; the characters & manners I deem wonderful. I fully intended not to say anything but of set on quite liberally - & hope so to give a precise account when we get where it is more necessary.

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Mr. Ward insisted on Dr. Gray sitting to his daughter in law,
(who takes likenesses in chalk admirably) - She began that
afternoon, and died at Clapham.

Saturday afternoon - to Conversation at the Royal Bot.
Society's garden in Regents Park (going thro. fine parts of
London & Westminster) - ground beautifully laid out. Conservatory
large & peculiarly well laid out, everything planted in the ground,
and arranged pictorially. - You should have been there to laugh
with me at some of the old ladies, - some most queer faces
& dresses to match - Mrs. Norton was there - 1000 people
there -

Sunday Morning, we came to town & went to church
at Westminster Abbey - (met Charles Bruce & companions
these - also Charles Norton, & Edward Cabot). First impressions
very grand & solemn. ~~Had a~~ ~~rich~~ ~~account~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~travels~~ ~~in~~ ~~Gr.~~
Fred O. came home and dined with us. ~~Had a~~ ~~rich~~ ~~account~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~travels~~ ~~in~~ ~~Gr.~~

Monday Dr. Gray went to New with Charles B. &
party & Charles Norton to show them the Gardens. A few the Victoria
in blossom, etc. - Mr. Ward took me a drive thro. suburban
villas & to Norwood Cemetery beyond Clapham. I see we know
nothing of ornamental gardening in America. Had a party of
Scientifics to dine, Prof. Huxley, Prof. Forbes, &c. - very nice.
A Mr. Bean, one of the Masters of St. Paul's school: funny man!

Tuesday, quiet all day. Dr. G. to London every morning,
starting about with all his might, seeing old friends, &c. &c. -
& Mr. Ward occupied with a patient in the city who kept him
nearly 24 hours.

Wednesday Dr. G. & Mr. Ward went upon a most
agreeable excursion to Herford, some 30 or 40 miles - with the
Linnaean Club, - which they enjoyed to the utmost. Dr. G.
says he never had such a time, & breaks out into ecstasies
every time he thinks of it. They Breakfasted at 11 in Herford
(a quaint old town) - visited a gentleman's ground, (Baysfordham)
- fine park, grand cedars of Lebanon - & a large Pinetum.

L. P. W. W. W.

Near 600 species of Coniferae planted on the ground - all the new rare kinds. - Then to Lord Cowper's place Paushanger. - the finest of Parks & grounds - I saw the famous Paushanger Oak, - a noble tree, still in full vigor - & certainly 1000 or 1200 years old. - Dr. G. was the guest of the Club. x

Miss Ward & I went shopping in London - I bought a doll for Kitty & ^{some} knives for the boys - But ~~my~~ expecting to send them Saturday, but my eyes gave out, & they must wait now till I get back to London, -

Thursday. We went to Kew by Rail road from Vauxhall. went over the magnificent gardens with Sir Wm & returned with him to dine at their house, West Park, Lady & Miss W. were very pleasant & kind indeed, & Hooker, after showing us all over the garden - afterwards walked with us - at dusk - a mile to the Mutlake depot. I walked fully six miles that day, - so you may see that I am getting on famously. We had a most enjoyable day. The Hookers were extremely kind & expect us to visit them on our return.

Friday. We went to the City - thence to the Courts. (Dr. B. much better) - farewell call - then Ward & daughter met us & we went to see the House of Lords in the new & magnificent House of Parliament. A private ticket from the Master King at arms had been procured for us by Mr. Ward. But it proved to be Appeal day & the room open; we stood at the Bar of the house & saw Lord Brougham hearing a case argued on appeal from the Chancellor. ^{heard} Sir Fitzroy Kelly & Sir J. Romilly - the new attorney general. - the Lawes in robes & queer wigs. Our ticket is saved for another day, when we can go over the rooms throughout - see the throne &c. - A very gorgeous room indeed, all carving & gilding - all burnished gold, but yet managed in some way so as not to be glaring, but wondrously rich. Came home, Dr. G. sat again to young Mrs. Ward, and I sketched the size & some strawberries we had for dinner,